

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Interview conducted with Examiner Nguyen on June 9, 2009, during which Interview, Applicant explained the meaning of "entity" and the novel features of the registration request recited in the independent claims.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 6 are amended and claims 10-20 are added with this response. In the latest Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been rejected and claims 5 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 19 and 20 are essentially original claims 5 and 9 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of respectively claims 1 and 6.

Support for the amended claim language and for the new claims is found throughout the description. Specifically, support for the added limitation in claims 1 and 6 of an entity being one of a user, a group of users or a service may be found in paragraph 0004 of published US Patent Application No. 20050249498. The added limitation in claims 1 and 6 of the decision to register including providing a specific LLID to each entity of a specific ONU may be found in paragraph 0039 and is part of the registration process in the IEEE 802.3 standard, which is incorporated by reference.

The Examiner's positions in the Response to Arguments, some of which were repeated in the Interview, fail to address the new limitations. In particular, FIGS. 1A-1B, col. 1, lines 59-67, FIG. 4 and its description in col. 7, lines 18-32, Request message 402 in FIG. 4, col. 8, lines 16-19 and FIG. 12 all fail to disclose the newly added limitations.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kramer (6,546,014). The rejection is respectfully traversed. With the amendments introduced into the independent claims which limit "entity" and add the limitation of the decision, by the OLT, to register including providing a specific LLID to each entity of a specific ONU, the invention is now clearly defined over and distinguished from Kramer. Kramer does not disclose registration requests of multiple entities belonging to a specific ONU, wherein the registration includes, by the OLT, providing

a specific LLID to each entity of the specific ONU (as in claims 1 and 6). Kramer does not disclose checking, by the OLT, if a registration request message defined according to the IEEE 802.3 specification and received from the specific ONU belongs to a certain grant and based on said checking, deciding, by the OLT, to register an entity selected from the group consisting of a user, a group of users and a service and associated with the registration request as a first entity or an additional entity of said specific ONU (claim 12). Applicant also stands by the other arguments presented re. Kramer in previous responses.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the features recited in claims 1, 6 and 12 and all claims depending therefrom are not anticipated by Kramer.

§ 103 Rejections

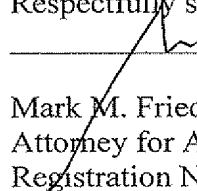
Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kramer as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sutherland (US 2003/0177216A1). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Sutherland does not disclose any of the limitations added in claim 1 as well as in new claim 12 and which are not disclosed by Kramer. Consequently, neither Kramer nor Sutherland actually teach or suggest all the limitations of claims 2-4 and therefore their combination cannot render these claims obvious.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

For the information of the Examiner, this response to the final Rejection is being filed contemporaneously with an RCE and the associated fees. The Applicant thanks the Examiner in advance for the full consideration of the amendments and arguments submitted herein.

In view of the remarks above it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1- 20 are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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